

tighter and so we're not in competition with them. That was my intent from the beginning. We're tightening the bill up. I think it's a bill that we can live with. And, once again, I want to point out that this bill only allows school districts the option to do so if they fit underneath all the guidelines, not mandating it. If school districts do not want to lease their buses out to people, they certainly do not have to. That is a school board decision. With the adoption of these amendments and then the ultimate passage of this bill, we'll then be giving school districts that option. With that, I would answer any questions that people may have.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Moore motion to return the bill to Select File, Senator Smith. Senator Withem next.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I ask a question of Senator Moore, please.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Moore, I would like to discuss a little bit with you your second point in your amendment which would disallow the contracting of buses for use in the counties that have a population of over 25,000 residents. And it seems that I heard you saying that your reason for including this in your amendment was the fact that you did not want to be in competition with private bus services. But I would remind you that, just right off the top of my head and immediately what comes to my mind is the fact that we have Buffalo County, where Kearney is located, the City of Kearney; Hall County, where Grand Island is; and Adams County, where Hastings is, I know of no private bus service in those three communities, which I really consider to be as rural or having the same kinds of needs for conventions and that sort of thing as York does. So, presently, how does York handle the need for bus service for conventions, for instance, or shuttling people around.

SENATOR MOORE: Your question was, how would (interruption)?

SENATOR SMITH: How do you handle it in York?

SENATOR MOORE: Well, that's the reason for the bill (interruption).